

CU is headed for a new conference, but few of the Pac-10's stadiums can match Folsom Field at sunset.  
Photo Courtesy: Chip Bromfield, ProMotion Ltd.



06/11/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

## Brooks: Buffs Strike First, Head For The (California) Hills

**BOULDER** - Contrary to nearly six months of speculation, the first domino to fall was Black and Gold. It toppled simultaneously early Thursday morning in Walnut Creek, Calif., and in Colorado's Dal Ward Athletics Center, flicked over on this end by CU Athletic Director Mike Bohn in an 8:45 a.m. departmental staff meeting that quickly escalated into a Pac-10 pep rally.

With apologies to Horace Greeley, "Go West, Young Buffs" ... and don't stop until you reach what was formerly the Pac-10.

Officially it is now, at the very least, the Pac-11. Probably not for long, though: the conference that went beyond flirtation with CU in the early 1990s (a formal invitation was extended but declined) appears to be waiting for subsequent dominoes to fall before its dance card is filled.

On Thursday morning, the tremors quickly spread from CU's Varsity Room to all points on the college landscape. The national aftershock isn't expected to subside any time soon - and know that

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Boulder won't be spared.

As you might have heard, CU's conference affiliation now swings to the West Coast. Some will flippantly say that's fitting; I say with some obvious product upgrades and higher ups recognizing the need for such, it can be a comfortable, cordial fit in s-o-o-o many ways. It's now officially OK to begin what could be a two-year wave goodbye to the Big 12 Conference - once a decent home now on the verge of foreclosure.

But the vital news for the Buffs and their fans is this: As college athletics veers into its most tumultuous period in half a century, CU has diligently worked itself onto very solid footing. As one athletic department official told me several months ago, "We're not going to be caught cold in this . . . when the music stops, we don't want to be the one without a chair."

Rest easy now; regardless of whatever else goes down in the Big 12, the music (and the Buffs) will play on.

Being first to enter the Pac-10 during what appears to be a looming period of turmoil was a shrewd, preemptive move by CU - President Bruce Benson, Chancellor Phil DiStefano, Bohn, and the Regents. A long-time newspaper friend in Tulsa e-mailed me Thursday afternoon with this observation: "Whizzer White would have loved that move CU put on (a certain school)."

With the Big Ten Conference apparently ready to take in Nebraska on Friday, Bohn and his B12 colleagues found themselves facing hard decisions about their schools' and the league's future. Or, as Bohn characterized it in Thursday morning's staff gathering, it had turned into "a high stakes game of chicken."

Following that theme, while some Texas politicians crowed for a package deal to keep their state's Big 12 schools together, CU quietly and diligently worked the Pac-10, reemphasizing and reinforcing the broad reasons their school initially had piqued that conference's interest in 1994. CU passed on that official invitation because it had pledged to be a formative, founding member of the Big 12.

Now, with bulldozers and backhoes poised to ravage the college landscape, the timing of Invitation No. 2 couldn't be better. CU was a good fit in the Big 12 for all the reasons it turned down Invitation No. 1 - continuation of Big Eight tradition and long-standing rivalries foremost among them.

Yet for a variety of reasons, as its structure evolved, the Big 12 proved to be a distressed family. Otherwise, Big Ten overtures to at least one Big 12 member never would have reached the tipping point and the Pac-10 might not have sensed that giving a second look to CU would be well received.

In this conference realignment, many, many, many questions still must be answered, starting with the state and fate of the Big 12: How long can it hold together? If it does have a future, are schools already lined up to replace CU, Nebraska, maybe Missouri, possibly five of the six South Division members?

Then, a question for new Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott: Will it be the "Twelve Pac" (CU and Utah, as originally speculated) or the "Packed House" (a 16-team mega-league that finds CU precariously flung into an East Division with



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the former Big 12 South schools . . . minus one)?

In that scenario, the Buffs reacquaint themselves with Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Oklahoma State, and say hello to Arizona and Arizona State, current Pac-10 members who would fill out the new eight-team division.

If the Pac-10 expands by two, CU and Utah could be members of a six-team South Division that also includes USC, UCLA, Arizona and Arizona State. Staying as a Pac-11 lacks the symmetry required for divisional and championship game purposes.

Then, there's this: What will it cost the Buffs to bolt the Big 12, how will they pay for it and when the time comes, who will be left to take the check?

Buying out of the Big 12 might not be cheap; estimated costs have run upwards of \$10 million. But creative, non-crippling ways to pay off an exit fee (if one ultimately is required) are being explored. Speculation is that a new Pac-12/16 television network could produce a \$20 million-plus per partner payout.

And we haven't even gotten to the on-field, on-court questions . . . After Thursday's briefing by Bohn, I asked football coach Dan Hawkins about the prospect of annually lining up in a "Packed House" East Division and how that might underscore the need for facilities upgrades, etc. at CU. Would perhaps competing every year instead of every four against former Big 12 South heavyweights be a wakeup call in that regard?

"No question . . . you're taking a huge chunk of the power in the Big 12 with you (if that scenario played out)," Hawkins said. "You probably can make an argument for having the best conference in the country - certainly with that many teams and that many national champions and Heisman Trophy winners and all that behind you. That's a lot of juice.

"I don't know if it is, but it certainly can be (a wakeup call). Every time you have a new beginning, you step back . . . maybe we all need to have a big powwow and sit down and go, 'OK, who are these people and what do they do, how do they operate and what's the industry standard in that conference . . . how can we all align ourselves accordingly?' I think that can certainly be an opportunity for us.

"Maybe it's a new chance for us to just reconfigure . . . you know, step back and everybody from the top down - whether it's legislators, regents, presidents, chancellors, football coaches - let's look at this whole thing and see how we can restructure it so that we get the kind of results in the Pac-10, 12 or 16 that we want."

It's the only way for CU to justify its bold exit from the Big 12.

Reaching for a football metaphor, the Buffs engineered a nice drive at an opportune time. The fit is just fine, thank you, for CU - as well as the Pac-(number to be named later). Whatever that number turns out to be, it's mighty good to be included.

In a time of what could be unprecedented upheaval in college athletics, Ralphie has landed right side up.

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Former Buffs All-American Alfred Williams (right) welcomes Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott as CU Athletic Director Mike Bohn looks on.  
Photo Courtesy: CUBuffs.com



06/11/2010 B.G. Brooks, Contributing Editor

## Brooks: Good Move, Good Fit, Even Better Timing

**BOULDER** - The University of Colorado officially has a new conference home. Changing neighborhoods couldn't have come at a better time for the Buffaloes.

Against a magnificent natural backdrop of the Flatirons, and with CU and Pac-10 logos alternately flashing on end zone video screens at Folsom Field, new Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott welcomed the Buffs into his league just before noon on Friday.

Earlier in the morning, CU's Board of Regents voted 9-0 to accept the Pac-10's membership offer, plucking CU out of the Big 12 Conference by the 2012-13 academic year or possibly before if dictated by dramatic change in the Big 12.

"I've had many tough, agonizing votes as a regent . . . this is not one of them," Regent Michael Carrigan said.

The unanimous vote was taken after Chairman Steve Bosley gazed across a crowd gathered in Folsom Field's East Side Stadium Club

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and noted, "I only see smiling faces all around."

For the preceding 24 hours - or since news of the move was delivered at mid-morning Thursday - CU's impending trek West has generated unbridled excitement among Buffs fans, alumni, former players, coaches and administrators.

It comes at a most opportune time, a time when an across-the-board galvanizing of the Buffs was needed, theorized former quarterback Joel Klatt.

"If there was ever a time when . . . CU essentially needed to reevaluate the expectations and vision of the athletic department, it's right now," Klatt said. "This is fantastic, plus I'm so proud of the leadership of the university because they didn't wait for others to do what they wanted to do. They said, 'This is what's best for Colorado and we're going to do it because of that - and not because we're just trying to find a place.'"

"I think that's the thing I like best about all of this. We're not going to try and fit just anywhere, we're going to go where we know we're wanted and we're going to be proactive about it. I was very proud of that."

Former defensive end Alfred Williams, a recent inductee into the College Hall of Fame, called it "better than a good move - it's a great move. I think it signals a new time, a new era for (CU) and a big shot in the arm when we needed it. That's the most important thing for me - rebuilding the commitment of the Colorado family. And this is an awesome opportunity to do that."

Williams, who along with former coach Bill McCartney and Gov. Bill Ritter met Scott and his traveling party Friday morning at Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport, said the Big 12 "wasn't a fair conference for (CU). I understand the competition with Texas has been great, but it has not been fair and we have not been on equal playing ground for a long time.

"But I think now, going forward with every opportunity and the new shared revenue that's been talked about, we'll have a better chance. And that's important."

Williams claimed he has "a smile on my face because I know what's going to happen here. We'll be able to get a different kind of recruit, we'll have the availability (to recruit) in new parts of the country that probably didn't view Colorado in the same way. Now, for me, from a purely football side, it's so much fun."

The Buffs already look to California often in recruiting in most sports. Former quarterback Darian Hagan, a teammate of Williams and a native Californian (Los Angeles), also believes Pac-10 membership will benefit members of the CU coaching staff who have West Coast ties.

"I like it because it's an opportunity for a lot of the kids that we recruit to be able to say I can get home four or five times a year," said Hagan, CU's running backs coach.. "But it's also an opportunity for coaches who grew up in California to get back and see family more often.

"And you're going into major cities; you're not going into Ames, Iowa. You're going into major places where there's a lot

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of things to do and see. I think it fits our university - academically, traditionally. I think it's a win-win."

After months of rampant speculation of impending major change in the national college landscape, CU and the Pac-10 became the first school and conference to initiate a move. Scott said as soon as his conference's presidents gave the green light to expand - he called it "a deliberate and exhaustive process" - CU emerged as a "great fit" in any expansion scenario that was being formulated.

"It was something we wanted to do regardless of circumstances around the country (in other conferences), we'd better move on it," he said. "Things moved very quickly . . . we found a chancellor (Phil DiStefano) and athletic director (Mike Bohn) who shared a vision of the future; they wanted to be proactive and wanted to be leaders. That's why this happened so quickly."

In welcoming CU to the "conference of champions," Scott called Friday "a landmark day for the Pac-10" and thanked CU's administration for its collective "leadership and courage . . . in taking the first major step (in conference realignment). History will recognize and reward this bold first step."

Said Bohn: "To be first is nice, but that wasn't the reason . . . we did it because it was right."

CU football coach Dan Hawkins credited Bohn "because this stuff's not easy. I think it's awesome to be in a conference, No. 1. And I think there can be a lot of positives to it. I think aligning ourselves with some of those schools academically that are kind of in our category is a good thing.

"Everybody always fears change, and maybe that's the biggest fear out there. It'll definitely be a new challenge, but it's also a new opportunity."

New CU men's basketball coach Tad Boyle, hired in mid-April to replace Jeff Bzdelik, said he was flying back to Denver with his Northern Colorado basketball team last season when he first heard of the possibility of Pac-10 expansion and CU being a potential invitee.

"Wow," Boyle remembered thinking, "CU in the Pac-10 . . . that's a good fit."

It's a better fit now that Boyle is part of it. He said he doesn't see a downside, but added, "I'm anxious to see where the rest of the dominoes fall. But for us, it's still a great, great fit."

The "conference of champions" tag, said Scott, relates to three things: "world class research, a prestigious academic reputation, and, of course, the athletic success in the Pac-10 Conference. (CU) is a perfect fit in all of these areas - and that's long been the view of the Pac-10, dating back 15 years ago when I believe these discussions started. Some things just take time."

Seven of the conference's 10 original members are members of the prestigious American Association of Universities (AAU), with the inclusion of CU now boosting that total to eight of 11. Scott said five Pac-10 schools are in the *US News and World Report's* Top 50 universities in the U.S., and the conference's schools collective number of nobel laureates exceeds 100.

The Pac-10, said Scott, has over 150 more athletic championships (all sports) than its nearest competitor, the Big Ten. But his conference never has had the possibility of winning a national championship in skiing - until now.

Nor has it had a national champion mascot, he noted, adding, "So Chip, welcome."

CU's membership in the California-based conference offers immediate appeal to alums in that state. DiStefano noted that CU has 35,000 more alumni in California than it has "in the Big 12 footprint" and that 600 freshmen from California enroll in CU every year.

CU's total number of sports (16) currently trails its Pac-10 peers. But DiStefano said that could change. Adding sports "is something we've talked about with (Scott)," he said. "As we look to the future, we should be thinking about adding sports. Baseball is one that I'd like to see, although . . . the weather here in the spring isn't always conducive to playing

baseball with 36 inches of snow."

(Ironically, Friday was 30 years to the day that CU eliminated baseball and a handful of other sports for budgetary reasons.)

With CU heading to the Pac-10 and Nebraska on Friday reportedly accepting membership in the Big Ten, the Buffs-Huskers football rivalry soon will require more than a shared conference membership to be played.

Without specifically mentioning Nebraska, Bohn said CU and various rivalries "are nothing we take for granted." He pointed to what has been an annual season-opener against Colorado State and said that game "is not in jeopardy." He also expressed optimism that "new rivalries will emerge quickly" in the Pac-10.

"That's not to say that rivalries with institutions we played before (read: Nebraska) won't reoccur from time to time . . . I know the Pac-10 is committed to great cross-sectional games across the country as well. We're committed to continue to play contests at the highest level. We've always been about that."

Before CU was brought aboard, the Pac-10 was rumored to be eyeing five Big 12 South Division schools and/or Utah. On-going movement in the Big 12 is being monitored, and Scott noted, "We're continuing our evaluation, looking at various scenarios and our presidents and chancellors could pursue them if they arise . . .

"A lot of that depends on what happens elsewhere in the country and decisions by individual schools . . . but if it stops here (with CU), it's a big step forward."

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## Woelk: Bohn, Buffs executed solid game plan

**Neill Woelk** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 11:54:40 PM MDT

Masterful.

That might be the best way to describe Colorado's approach in general and Mike Bohn's plan in particular when it came to procuring a spot in the Pac-10.

While message boards buzzed in dismay for the last week at what was perceived as a lack of inactivity and leadership on CU's part, they needn't have worried. Buff officials have been quietly working behind the scenes for weeks -- months, actually -- to put themselves in the best position possible for inclusion in the Pac-10's plans.

They executed the game plan perfectly.

Thus, the Buffs are ahead of the curve today, in good position for the future no matter what else happens.

Think about it. Conjure up any scenario you'd like -- from one more team to the Pac-10 to five more to no more -- and Colorado is on solid ground. While plenty of Big 12 schools are still wondering today where they'll be two years from now, there's no question for the Buffs.

They'll be in a terrific conference respected for its athletics and academics, they'll have a new schedule that should amplify interest in all sports, and they'll have a new television contract in hand to boot.

It didn't happen by accident. As one observer told me Thursday afternoon, "CU had the chessboard set up and it looks like they'd played every option. They did their best to anticipate the moves everyone else was going to make, and they moved accordingly."

And the game apparently unfolded very much like Bohn and Co. planned. Before Nebraska could make a move and start a stampede for the door, before Texas could make the jump and take all of its little Lone Star brothers with it to the party, CU cut to the front of the line.

When the door opened, the Buffs were in, safe and sound. No waiting for someone else, no dissecting their options after they had become limited.

Proactive instead of reactive. A strategy that was well-thought and well-executed, and one that enlisted the help of resources from across the campus.

President Bruce Benson had a major role in plugging Colorado's strengths. Ditto for chancellor Phil DiStefano.

And, who better to promote Colorado's academic standards than one of its Nobel Laureates? Enter 1989 Nobel Prize winner for chemistry Thomas Cech, who did his part in making sure Pac-10 folks knew about Colorado's classroom prowess.

Colorado's strategy was enough to keep the Buffs at the forefront of the Pac-10's plans from the beginning. It's why commissioner Larry Scott said, "We've been looking at Colorado for quite some time ... and it became clear to us that in any scenario we were going to consider for expansion, Colorado was a great fit."

Even as recently as a few weeks ago, the majority of Big 12 members still hoped the conference would stay together. But as the expansion time bomb began to tick louder and louder, and the Big 12 wall began to show more and more cracks, Colorado put itself in position to make a move -- then aggressively took the necessary steps.

After last weekend, following the conclusion of the Big 12, Pac-10 and SEC meetings, it became clear that massive movement was more than a possibility.



On Tuesday, Bohn gave the regents a comprehensive report on all the possible scenarios. When the executive session was over, they handed him the keys and told him to proceed. No minute-by-minute update of the final discussions with the Pac-10 were necessary.

The invitation was officially extended late Tuesday night, and by Thursday morning, the two parties were ready to officially announce their new partnership.

One long-time observer and -- oftentimes participant -- in such wheelings and dealings said CU handled itself well from beginning to end.

"I don't know if the average fan out there is aware of the subtleties that are involved in these kinds of things," he said. "When you think of all the options, and the position CU put itself in, they did an admirable job. They protected their interests before their options were limited."

Obviously, the game isn't over yet. CU is still not certain how many teams will be in the new Pac-10 two years from now. A league that includes Texas, A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State would be, to put it delicately, a brute.

But no matter what happens today, next week or next month, there's no worst-case scenario for the Buffs. No matter what happens, they're better off now than they were a few days ago.

That's what you call a good game plan -- and good execution.

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# Jayhawk invasions likely coming to end

## CU's move will leave men's basketball void

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 11:41:16 PM MDT

Toto, I've a feeling we're not (playing) in Kansas anymore.

Colorado's decision to leave the Big 12 for the Pac-10 means the Buffs will not be in the same conference as Kansas and Kansas State for the first time since 1947.

Football and television money are the driving forces behind the Pac-10 expansion and CU officially heading West in 2012.

But what will this mean for the Buffs in men's basketball?

Kansas, Kansas State and Baylor -- expected to be left in the Big 12 rubble if Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma and others also leave the conference for the Big Ten, Pac-10 and/or SEC -- all finished the 2009-10 season ranked in the top 10.

The Jayhawks arguably have the top program in the country. You won't get an argument from CU athletic director Mike Bohn and new head coach Tad Boyle, who are both KU alums.

"KU is always going to be a power," said legendary Buffs All-American Burdette "Birdie" Haldorson. "I'm sure the Kansas people love coming out here for a game every year. But I'm just glad CU was included and wanted (by the Pac-10)."

Haldorson led the Buffs to a rare sweep of the Jayhawks on the hardwood in 1955 en route to CU's only Final Four appearance that season.

Overall, KU leads the series with CU 119-39. The Jayhawks have three national titles and have made 13 Final Four appearances.

Needless to say, the 10-time Big 12 champs aren't happy about the possibility of having to look for a new conference.

"We play on Naismith Drive; the father of coaching (Phog Allen) was our second coach; Adolph Rupp and Dean Smith went to school here; the most dominant player in the game in Wilt (Chamberlain) went to school here," KU head coach Bill Self told [espn.com](http://espn.com). "And it's not like we haven't lived up to it lately. ... But here we are potentially trying to find a home? I don't get that."

KU is 28-1 against CU since the Big 12 was formed. The Buffs took a step forward last season and had a chance to beat the top-ranked Jayhawks on the final possession of regulation before losing 72-66 in overtime in front of a capacity crowd of 11,027 at the Coors Events Center.

Now UCLA, which did not make the NCAA Tournament last season, will be the marquee program CU is chasing.

"They're not the power that KU is," Casey Crawford, a senior on the 2009-10 Buffs who grew up in Overland Park, Kan., said of the Pac-10 teams. "But UCLA has traditionally been a phenomenal team. The initial shock and awe of KU not coming in there will eventually wear off. I think it's going to be a good fit for CU."

Boyle's first season at CU will be the program's second-to-last in the Big 12. This season, with the return of Cory Higgins, Alec Burks and Shannon Sharpe, the Buffs could make a statement in the Big 12 while boosting their recruiting presence in California.

"The Big 12 has been tougher than the Pac-10 in basketball the past few years. But I'm glad (CU) got an invitation and are not one of the schools left out," Haldorson said. "I feel real good about Buffs basketball right now. I think (Jeff) Bzdelik left the program in pretty good shape. The only thing they were missing was a banger, some muscle inside. If Boyle can get

one of those guys they should be in good shape."

CU is 0-3 in the Big 12/Pac-10 Hardwood Series. Oregon State will visit the Coors Events Center this season before the Buffs join them in the expanded conference.

Historically, the Pac-10's bell cow -- UCLA -- has the most NCAA titles (11) and has made the most Final Four appearances (18) of any program in the country. Arizona (1997), California (1959), Stanford (1942) and Oregon (1939) have also won national championships in men's basketball.

"I'm excited to play UCLA. I'm from (California) and all the Cali games are going to be crazy," said Sharpe, a redshirt freshman point guard from Corona, Calif. "I think we have a chance to be one of the top teams in that conference every year."

One possible negative would be the Pac-10's Thursday-Saturday schedule during conference play, which would lead to more missed classes for the players. For example, CU would play at USC on a Thursday (leaving Wednesday) and at UCLA on a Saturday (returning in the wee hours after the game).

And many of the games wouldn't start until after 8 p.m. Mountain time.

"Personally, I would be disappointed," Higgins said in March when CU moving to the Pac-10 was nothing more than speculation. "I want to come back and see the team play the same teams that I've played. I don't want them going to the Pac-10."

Nebraska, the Buffs' top rival in football, is expected to announce today that it will be leaving the Big 12 for the Big Ten. CU swept the Huskers last season in basketball to cut its deficit in the all-time series to 75-71.

The Buffs have been playing Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State since joining the Big Seven prior to the 1947-48 season.

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## CU has work to do on future schedules

### Bufs must find new non-conference football opponents

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 11:33:22 PM MDT

Colorado athletic department administrators are going to be busy.

In the coming weeks and months they will begin to formulate a plan for the transition from the Big 12 to the Pac-10 which will happen two years from this summer in advance of the 2012-13 school year.

But that is just the start.

Athletic director Mike Bohn and associate athletic director Dave Plati are suddenly confronted with the reality that a sizeable percentage of the future non-conference games in football the school already has under contract are with Pac-10 teams.

That percentage would grow if Utah was to be invited to join the Pac-10 along with Colorado. CU is scheduled to play Utah in 2012 and 2013.

The Buffs must replace a home-and home series in 2014 and 2017 with Oregon. Games with Washington are under contract in 2015 and 2016 and a series with Arizona State is contracted for 2018 and 2019.

With the exception of Utah, all of those games will be cancelled and rescheduled within the conference scheduling formula, whatever that might be. CU must find new non-conference opponents to replace them.

Perhaps CU will choose to schedule Nebraska, Kansas, Kansas State or Iowa State as opportunities to continue or revisit old rivalries.

Plati said the Pac-10 preliminary plan is to continue to play nine conference games each year regardless of the conference's makeup following expansion, but CU will need to know much more before it can sink its teeth into future non-conference scheduling again.

"The thing about the schedule now is we can't do anything until they set the (conference) schedule because even though it's going to be a nine-game schedule, some years you're going to have five (home) games and some years you will have four," Plati said. "Until we know that, we have to wait to get to our desired plan of having six home games."

Plati said over time scheduling will become easier in the Pac-10 with a nine-game conference schedule because it will leave just three games to fill on the schedule instead four under the current model in the Big 12.

And considering CU is committed to playing Colorado State each year through 2020, CU will need to find only two opponents per year between 2015 and 2020.

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## Move to Pac-10 a win for academics, CU-Boulder faculty says

**By Brittany Anas** Camera Staff Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 07:40:28 PM MDT

As far as academics are concerned, the University of Colorado has long had ties with the Pac-10.

CU researchers partnered with Stanford University for a recent study that shows forensic scientists may be able to identify criminals with hand bacteria left on objects like keyboards. Over in the geography department, a professor from Boulder teamed up with a colleague from the University of Arizona to link western U.S. wildfires to surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean. Another collaboration between CU and Stanford examined whether elephants can run.

The Boulder campus' entrance into the Pac-10 will have academic advantages, bolstering the already-existent research relationships between the schools, according to university officials. So far, the switch in athletic leagues is going over smoothly with faculty members.

Several sources close to the deal even said CU Nobel laureate Tom Cech offered behind-the-scenes encouragement for the conference switch, saying the schools in the Pac-10 seem to be the university's natural peer group. Cech is out of the country and was unavailable for comment Thursday.

David Clough, a professor in the chemical and biological engineering department and the faculty's athletic representative, said the switch will be beneficial for fundraising and strengthening ties with alumni.

"Athletics is a common touch point for alumni and friends of the university," he said. "There's an undeniable interest among alumni in athletics. We have a ton of alumni in Pac-10 territory."

According to numbers the Alumni Association pulled, there are 35,595 CU alumni living in the Pac-10 states. That compares with 10,987 in the Big 12 states.

Clough said CU will be able to organize alumni events around out-of-town games.

"That doesn't happen in Lincoln," he said.

(Only 662 CU alumni are living in Nebraska, compared with 23,467 in California and 5,207 in Washington).

David Miklowitz, an adjunct psychology professor at CU, partners with a researcher at Stanford to develop family-focused treatments for youth at high risk of developing bipolar disorder.

He said he doesn't think a league change will drastically affect research.

"I don't think it will make a big difference," he said. "You don't end up collaborating with a university as much as a person at that university."

Both CU President Bruce Benson and Chancellor Phil DiStefano have commented on the prestige of the universities in the Pac-10.

"You're judged by who you associate with," Benson said in a conference call Thursday.

And CU, he said, wants to be judged alongside the schools in the Pac-10.

DiStefano said faculty members feel "very positive" about the new partnership with the Pac-10. He said he wants to explore academic partnerships within the league -- similar to a faculty fellowship exchange that CU was a part of in the Big 12. DiStefano said he will be reaching out to presidents and chancellors at schools in the Pac-10.

Contact Camera Staff Writer Brittany Anas at 303-473-1132 or [anasb@dailycamera.com](mailto:anasb@dailycamera.com).

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## CU Buffs leaving Big 12 for Pac-10

**By Kyle Ringo** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 08:43:20 AM MDT

The University of Colorado and the Pac-10 Conference beat the rest of the nation to the punch today with the Buffaloes announcing their change in conference affiliation to the West Coast-based league beginning in 2012.

While schools such as Missouri and Baylor have spent weeks or months beating their chests in an effort to better position themselves for conference expansion, CU officials worked quietly since last fall to move the school into a league in which it is a better fit academically, culturally and athletically.

"We're all extremely excited to be joining this conference," CU president Bruce D. Benson said. "We look at it as a real class conference. You're judged by who you associate with and we want to be associated with the Pac-10 because it's such a great conference. Now that is saying nothing against the Big 12."

The CU Board of Regents is expected to formally approve the change during a meeting at 10:15 a.m. today at Folsom Field. A news conference with Pac-10 officials will follow the meeting.

The ramifications of the move will be felt throughout the Boulder campus and across the CU system. Being affiliated with prestigious schools such as Stanford, Cal and UCLA is likely to impact fundraising, research funding, faculty salaries and much more.

Colorado and the Pac-10 have been flirting with each other since the 1990s when the school was invited, along with Texas, to join the Pac-10. Both decided to stay in the fledgling Big 12. But with conference realignment speculation swirling around the nation in recent months, CU officials chose not to miss their chance again.

Many believed the Big Ten, Notre Dame, Texas or Nebraska would be the first to make a move. Instead it was a bold move from Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott and a bolder Boulder.

"We've been looking at Colorado for quite some time and have felt that we've been through a pretty exhaustive and deliberate process, and it became clear to us that in any scenario we were going to consider for expansion, Colorado was a great fit," Scott said.

This is the first expansion for the Pac-10 since the league added Arizona and Arizona State in 1978. The Pac-10 will be the eighth athletic conference with which Colorado has been affiliated in its history.

Scott said he has been authorized to pursue several different scenarios to further expand the Pac-10, but he would not elaborate. He said no other schools had been invited to join the league as of Thursday afternoon.

Scott also said it is possible the conference could opt to remain at 11 teams. It would not have a championship game in football if that was the case because the NCAA requires a 12-team league to qualify for a conference title game.

One possibility is inviting five schools from the Big 12 South Division, including Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. Adding Texas would significantly boost the dollars the conference will command in negotiating its next television deal next year.

The Pac-10 is also considering starting its own television network which would boost revenue.

Colorado brings the Denver television market to the Pac-10, which will help the league in coming negotiations regardless of what other schools are also added. Colorado is the only Bowl Championship Series school in the Mountain Time Zone.

Colorado officials seemed to be counting on plenty of new revenue. When asked how the school will afford any exit fees it will have to pay the Big 12, Benson said CU would work with the Pac-10 to finance that money with future distributions.

"We haven't worked out the financial plan yet," CU chancellor Phil DiStefano said. "What we have to see is what is the penalty from the Big 12? How can we work with the Pac-10 to look at some upfront financing. There are details to be worked out that we just haven't worked out yet."

Colorado gave notice of its intention to leave the Big 12 to conference commissioner Dan Beebe early Thursday morning, fulfilling its obligation under Big 12 rules to provide two years notice.

The conference's bylaws require CU to forfeit 50 percent of its Big 12 revenue distributions for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years. The total amount is expected to be somewhere between \$9 and \$10 million.

However, with more than half the league seemingly poised to either follow the Buffs to the Pac-10 or join other conferences, there is some question whether there will be any remaining members of the Big 12 to receive the exit fees.

The conference could be dissolved if nine schools or 75 percent of the league votes to do so. At this point, it appears there would be only eight votes in favor of that option, and maybe only seven.

Kansas, Kansas State, Iowa State, Baylor and Missouri don't know what their future holds at this point, though Missouri remains a possible addition to the Big Ten.

"I continue to work through the process that was agreed upon last week by our Board of Directors to address membership issues, and are working tirelessly towards the long-term viability of the Big 12," Big 12 commissioner Dan Beebe said in a statement.

The change in conference likely ends Colorado's affiliation with rival Nebraska and other schools such as Missouri, Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State. Colorado has been affiliated with those schools since 1948.



# Pac-16 schedule may demand creativity

## Standard setup would limit inter-division matchups

**By Neill Woelk** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 11:33:18 PM MDT

If the new version of the Pac-10 does indeed become the Pac-16, Colorado fans are understandably worried about the possible division breakdowns.

They can envision the Buffs joining Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Arizona and Arizona State in one division. All the beast of the old Big 12 and no West Coast flavor.

"What's the point?" some have said.

But it's unlikely that a 16-team Pac-10 would utilize a simple divisional scheduling matrix. Such a plan would probably encounter more than a little displeasure from television networks, because it would greatly limit some of the marquee matchups.

Here's why:

A simple divisional schedule with nine conference games would mean seven games against division foes and just two against the other division each season.

Use Texas as an example and start in 2012, the first year of the new conference.

Along with playing seven division games, UT might play Southern Cal at home and UCLA on the road. The following year (2013), they'd switch sites with the two Los Angeles schools.

Then would come two games against the Bay Area schools in 2014 and 2015, two against the Oregon schools in 2016 and 2017, and two against the Washington schools in 2018 and 2019.

Then the rotation would begin again in 2020 -- and that means a seven-year gap between every Southern Cal-Texas game, and an eight-year gap between every USC visit to Austin (and vice-versa).

Now, plug in the same formula for every inter-division matchup.

Oklahoma-Oregon (a rivalry just begging to be started, by the way)? Sorry, two games every eight years. Colorado-UCLA? Another nice possible rivalry -- but not if CU fans have to wait eight years for Rick Neuheisel's next visit.

One plan that's being floated that might mitigate the problem just a little is a "pod system."

Four pods of four teams each, with each division having two pods. Here's how this scenario might work:

1) Texas, A&M, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma; 2) Colorado, Texas Tech, Arizona, Arizona State; 3) USC, UCLA, Cal and Stanford; 4) Oregon, Oregon State, Washington and Washington State.

Use Colorado as an example. Every year, Colorado plays Tech, Arizona and ASU. In 2012, the Buffs also play Texas, A&M, USC, UCLA, Washington and Washington State.

The following year, the home sites are reversed against the same teams.

Then, in 2014, Colorado plays its three "pod" foes, along with Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Cal, Stanford, Oregon and Oregon State. In 2015, the home sites are again reversed -- and Colorado has played everyone in the league, home and



away, in a four-year span.

That's half the time of a standard division schedule, and it helps keep the networks (the folks paying the bills) happy.

Such a format would also preserve the traditional rivalries being played every year (Texas-Oklahoma, USC-UCLA, Oregon-Oregon State, etc.), while still giving fans in each city a chance to see all the other schools twice as often as a standard divisional schedule. North and South (or East and West) divisions could still exist, and a championship game could be played.

Another possibility that has been floated over the last couple of days has been eight-team divisions with no title game and a standard divisional schedule.

Instead of a title game, the Pac-16 would ask for two BCS bowl bids. Such a format would open the possibility of the Pac-16 North and Pac-16 South champs playing for a national title (and quite the payday for the conference).

It's unlikely, though, that the other BCS conferences would be overjoyed at the Pac-16 plucking two automatic bids every year.

Of course, the scheduling matrix becomes much easier if the Pac-10 becomes only the Pac-12. Then, the format follows that used by the Big 12 -- and the only question is how to divide the divisions.

If Texas is the only other team to join, a likely grouping would see the Buffs and Longhorns join the two Arizona and two Los Angeles schools in the South while the two Bay Area schools would be grouped with the Oregon and Washington schools in the North.

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## Bufs-Huskers rivalry may go by wayside

**McCartney hopes Texas follows Colorado to new Pac-10**

**By Ryan Thorburn** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 11:29:22 PM MDT



Breaking

up is not hard to do.

Bill McCartney, the legendary coach who turned Colorado vs. Nebraska into a great rivalry in the late '80s and early '90s, is ready to move on.

"I've always believed, go West young man," McCartney said during a phone interview with the Camera on Thursday night.

But who will the Buffs circle on the football schedule in the years to come?

CU accepted an invitation to join the Pac-10 on Thursday. Nebraska is expected to announce today that it will be heading for the Big Ten.

And so ends a series that began on Nov. 17, 1898, and will conclude on Nov. 25, 2011, before the programs pack their bags and move into new conference digs.

"That was special," McCartney said of the showdowns with Tom Osborne's Cornhuskers. "Keep in mind, Nebraska is a neighboring state. If Nebraska hadn't left and opted out of the Big 12, I would feel differently about this. When they left, there was nothing to keep us here."

Some CU fans would prefer that the Pac-10 add just one more team instead of creating a mega conference that also includes Big 12 South Division players Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

McCartney wants the Longhorns to make the move with CU.

"I would really like to see Texas go," McCartney said. "I'll tell you why from a Colorado perspective. In order for Colorado to

compete nationally they have to get kids out of California and Texas. ...

"It would be the best possible scenario."

In 1961, CU defeated Nebraska 7-0 in Lincoln en route to the program's first Big Eight title and a trip to the Orange Bowl. McCartney's Buffs also beat the Huskers 27-21 in 1989 to get back to the Orange Bowl and 27-12 in 1990 on the way to the national championship.

"It's a sad day for us old guys who played in the Big Eight," said Cliff Branch, who played at CU from 1969-72 before winning three Super Bowls with the Oakland Raiders during a storied NFL career. "Our rivalry game was always the Cornhuskers of Nebraska. That was always a big game."

So, does the end of the annual CU-Nebraska game make the move to the Pac-10 a bittersweet one for the Buffs?

"I don't think so," said All-American and College Football Hall of Fame member Joe Romig, who was on the 1969 CU team. "That's been a rivalry and there is nothing to keep us from playing them from time to time. ... I look at it from the standpoint that there will be some nice trips for alumni to the West Coast. That would be kind of fun."

When McCartney was hired in 1982 he designated Nebraska as CU's primary rival. In 1986, the Buffs ended an 18-game losing streak in the series with a stunning 20-10 upset of the No. 3 Huskers at Folsom Field.

The 19-19 tie in the 1991 CU-Nebraska game was the last tie recorded in the Big Eight and the last by both schools.

Nebraska has dominated the all-time series by a count of 48-18-2. The Huskers have won 14 of the last 18 meetings, including a 28-20 victory in 2009.

"I judge that from the fans," Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said before last year's game at Folsom Field when asked if he viewed CU as a rival. "I haven't been a part of this program for a real long time. I know this is a game special to our fans, and it's special to the Colorado fans."

Ask any diehard CU fan what 62-36 means and they will be able to tell you it was the final score of the 2001 meeting when Chris Brown and Co. thrashed No. 2 Nebraska on national television.

The Buffs upset Texas for the program's only Big 12 title eight days later. However, it was the Huskers who went on to play for the national championship that season while CU was soundly beaten by Oregon in the Fiesta Bowl.

Gary Barnett's CU teams also beat Nebraska in 2002 and 2004 on the way to North Division titles.

"I think CU was probably looking out for itself. They certainly needed something positive to happen right now and it has happened," Barnett said of the move to the Pac-10 during an interview on KCKK (1510 AM). "It's a good fit for them academically and campus-wise. ... More than anything else, it's going to help them financially. And they need help."

Osborne, who is now Nebraska's athletic director, became disenchanted with the South Division's dominance of the Big 12. Now the Huskers plan to make more money while wrapping up the regular season against a random Big Ten opponent during Thanksgiving week.

"As far as being married to that, no," Osborne said of the annual Buffs-Huskers ABC telecast before last year's meeting. "But if the TV people want to keep Colorado-Nebraska, you have to listen."

As far as retaining rivalries, a Pac-16 would preserve Longhorns-Aggies and Sooners-Cowboys at the end of the season. Buffs-Red Raiders isn't very sexy, but at least Texas Tech wears a little red.

UCLA, now coached by Rick Neuheisel, could emerge as a new rival for CU. However, if there are 16 teams in the conference and the Buffs and Bruins end up in different divisions they likely won't play every year.

Only time will tell how it all plays out for CU and Nebraska after they go their separate ways.

"Tom Osborne said it great," Alfred Williams, an All-American at CU who will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame this year, said on his radio show on KKFN (104.3 FM). "This is no small matter. This is something that could be about the next 75 years."

# Bufs no stranger to new West foes

**CU met Pac-10 teams on gridiron every year from 1975-1991**

**By Joshua Linden** Camera Sports Writer  
Boulder Daily Camera

Posted: 06/10/2010 11:28:17 PM MDT

How about this for a 2012 conference football slate Buff fans: UCLA, at Oklahoma, Texas, at USC, Oklahoma State, at Texas A&M, Texas Tech, at Arizona, Arizona State.

Yowza.

OK, so Texas still has to follow Colorado's lead and join the Pac-10 -- and bring its little brothers from the Big 12 South along -- for a scenario like that to become possible.

One thing that is certain after Thursday's announcement that CU will join the Pac-10, though, is that the Buffaloes will be heading into fairly familiar gridiron territory whether Texas and friends come along for the ride or not.

The Buffs have long been foes with current Pac-10 Conference schools in football, dating all the way back to a 1904 duel with Stanford in Denver but particularly in the last 35 years.

Outside of CU's own conference, only the Mountain West has provided more frequent opponents for the Buffs than the Pac-10. Throw out in-state rival Colorado State and Utah -- a longtime conference foe for the Buffs in the first half of the 20th century -- and Pac-10 opponents easily become the most prevalent non-conference adversaries for CU.

CU hasn't played a Pac-10 team in either of the last two seasons, a run that will end this fall when the Buffs travel to face Cal on Sept. 11 in Berkeley.

But in only six seasons since 1975 have the Buffs gone without at least one Pac-10 matchup. That includes a stretch from 1975-91 in which the Buffs faced a Pac-10 opponent every season, not to mention three each in 1982, '85 and '87.

The Buffs are 38-34-1 all-time against Pac-10 schools for a .521 winning percentage that is nearly identical to CU's .511 success rate against Big 12 schools (253-229-13).

The Buffs have struggled in recent years against the Pac-10, going 3-7 since 2000. But there is plenty of reason to believe CU can be competitive with its new conference rivals. (We'll save the Big 12 South part of this discussion for another day).

The league the Buffs are leaving has annually been considered tougher than the league the Buffs are joining. And Southern Cal, the Pac-10's lone powerhouse for the last decade, got hit Thursday with major sanctions from the NCAA, a development that could make the race for the conference crown more wide open in coming seasons -- barring the addition of Texas.

Also helping prepare the Buffs for a jump to the Pac-10 has been the Big 12's shift in recent years to a pass-happy league full of high-powered spread offenses that easily rival the high-scoring units in the Pac-10.

While the idea of a natural rival for CU might take time to develop, the CU-Pac-10 series has provided several big games in Buffalo football history -- including five bowl game matchups -- to provide fuel for the competitive fire.

Ranked third and fourth in the final BCS standings following the 2001 season, CU and Oregon met in the Fiesta Bowl where the Ducks drubbed the Buffs 38-16. It was just three years earlier that CU out-gunned the Ducks 51-43 in the Aloha Bowl on Christmas Day in current UCLA coach Rick Neuheisel's last game as CU head coach. And the Buffs capped off a top-10 1995 season with a 38-6 rout of Oregon in the Cotton Bowl.

The Buffs also had wins over Washington and Stanford on the way to the 1990 national title.

Other CU vs. the Pac-10 tidbits:

Colorado already had non-conference games scheduled against Pac-10 foes for 2010 (at Cal), 2011 (Cal), 2014 (at Oregon)



and 2015 (Washington).

All of CU's series against Pac-10 foes feature spreads of two games or fewer except for Arizona and USC. The Buffs are 12-1 against Arizona, with 10 wins from 1950-60. USC, meanwhile, is 5-0 against the Buffs, outscoring CU 138-24.

Oregon has been the Buffs' most frequent Pac-10 foe, with CU holding an 8-7 edge. The Buffs played Oregon at least twice every decade from the 1950s to the



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shake-up around the states

## CU Pacs up for new conference

By John Henderson  
The Denver Post

Posted: 06/11/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 06/11/2010 08:28:47 AM MDT



(Kathryn Scott Osler, The Denver Post)

The University of Colorado is leaving 52 years of roaming the Great Plains of the Big Eight and Big 12 for the Pacific-10 Conference, and CU president Bruce Benson said it's a fit long overdue.

"I have the same reaction I've had for a long time. It's a fabulous conference," Benson said

Thursday after the Pac-10 announced it would expand for the first time since 1978. "The schools in it are great. They're the kind of schools we need to be around."

The feeling is apparently mutual. In July, the Pac-10 hired commissioner Larry Scott from the World Tennis Association with the charge of increasing revenue. Expansion became an obvious option, in order to build a mega-conference more valuable to television networks, and CU is the

[Blog: All Things Buffs](#)



The Post's Tom Kensler posts analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics.

first brick of what is expected to be a massive addition, possibly up to a Pac-16.

CU, which joined the Big Eight Conference in 1948 and has been a member of the Big 12 since 1996, will begin Pac-10 play with the 2012 football season.

The Big 12 has a buyout clause that is expected

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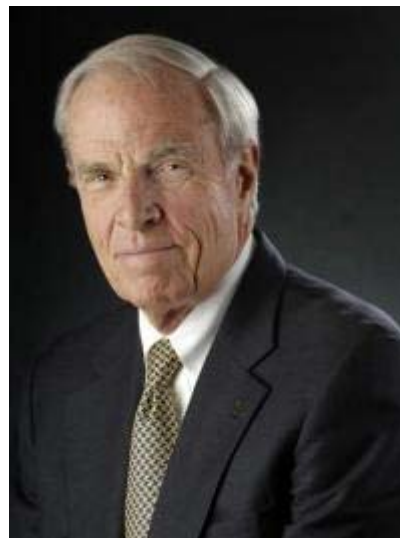
to cost CU about \$9 million. That figure is uncertain because of the fact that the entire Big 12 might be dissolved if other teams leave. CU couldn't afford to pay football coach Dan Hawkins' \$3.1 million buyout last fall, but Benson said the Big 12 buyout may be easier. The Pac-10 may also help with the financing.

"It'll come out of the future revenue from a much better TV deal — if we have to pay it," Benson said. "We're not sure. What's the Big 12 going to look like next week?"

While the rest of the country waited for Nebraska or Texas to make the first move in what is projected as a consolidation of super conferences, CU beat them to the punch by working behind the scenes in recent days to secure its future. The next big move is expected today when Nebraska announces it will join the Big Ten.

"We're thrilled that Colorado is joining us as a result of the exhaustive process we've been going through," Scott

said Thursday. "I can't think of a better fit academically, as well as athletically. It's a very exciting time."



University of Colorado president Bruce Benson. (File photo)

Who else will join CU in the Pac-10 isn't known, but Benson isn't worried. He wanted to make sure CU was in a proactive mode rather than being left behind.

Benson said the Pac-10 contacted him about 11 days ago. He had discussed the move internally with CU administrators since October and became more concerned in recent weeks with the buzz about the Big 12's possible demise. He was on the phone with the Pac-10 until 10 p.m. Wednesday and finalized the deal Thursday morning.

"We worried about what the Texas schools might do," Benson said. "We think it's a great fit. We're

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really excited."

## A positive vibe at CU

In Boulder, the winds of change have already left a positive vibe on campus and in the Dal Ward Center.

"I love it. I love it," said Jashon Sykes, a Los Angeles native, a former Buffalo linebacker and now the school's coordinator of football relations. "I just think of it from an alumni standpoint, from a recruiting standpoint. I think it's a great deal for CU. When you talk about recruiting, the bulk of our guys have always come from the West Coast. We can use that as a positive spin, recruiting-wise, when we talk to kids' families."

CU wide receiver Scotty McKnight is a senior, so he won't get to play in the new conference, but said the Buffs will love their new home.

"For recruiting, it could be huge," McKnight said. "I know in Orange County, there's a lot of Colorado supporters. The Buff Club is big there. When you're from California, Colorado is a very attractive school to come to. I was looking at different schools, and the day I came up here there was snow on the ground and it was 80 degrees outside. I thought, 'This is the place I want to be.' "

Buff fans Thursday were excited too, lighting up the message boards with congratulations.

"I'd be more inclined to go to a road game in California (than Big 12 cities)," said Matt Tavenner, founder of the CU fan site [AllBuffs.com](http://AllBuffs.com). "Now, there are better cities to travel to."

CU athletic director Mike Bohn and coach Hawkins declined to comment until a news conference today in Boulder to officially accept the invitation.

The Pac-10 is considering adding five more teams: Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech. If that happened, CU would likely go into an eastern division with its former Big 12 rivals, along with Arizona and Arizona State.

Benson said CU would have joined the Pac-10 regardless of whether Nebraska moved to the Big Ten. As it turns out, the Pac-10 felt the same way about CU.

"We've been looking at Colorado for quite some time," Scott said. "We felt, through a very exhausting and deliberate study, any (expansion) scenario would consider Colorado. It's a great fit."

The biggest driving force behind the move is money. Scott will soon go to Fox to negotiate a TV package he hopes will compare to that of the Big Ten and Southeastern conferences. Both leagues guarantee their schools \$20 million to \$22 million each per year in TV revenue. Last month the Atlantic Coast Conference signed a \$1.87 billion, 12-year deal, giving its 12 schools

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nearly \$13 million each per year.

## The timing was right

Last year, CU received about \$8 million in TV revenue from the Big 12.

With half the Big 12 probably headed to the Pac-10, Benson saw the timing as right.

"It's a significant increase of revenue," Benson said. "Not the first day, but we'll start building a media presence."

As for who else the Pac-10 will go after, Scott said no other invitations have been issued and different conference models are being studied.

It's clear that Texas — and its huge following, which translates into high TV ratings — is next on the Pac-10's wish list. When Nebraska accepts an invitation from the Big Ten, the Pac-10 will likely go after the rest of the Big 12 South, minus Baylor.

However, Texas and Texas A&M officials met Thursday to discuss their future together. The schools' respective athletic directors, DeLoss Dodds and Bill Byrne, said at the Big 12 spring meetings last week that they were reluctant to join a conference two time zones away.

The Southeastern Conference could be an option — but more so for Texas A&M than Texas. If the Pac-10 keeps the Texas schools in one division, their travel problems will be minimal.

Still, Scott said it's possible the Pac-10 may only be a Pac-11 in 2012. He is holding off renaming the conference and deciding on a football championship game until membership is determined.

*Staff writer Tom Kensler contributed to this report. John Henderson: 303-954-1299 or [jhenderson@denverpost.com](mailto:jhenderson@denverpost.com).*

## Runnin' with the Pac

*A look at Colorado's athletic department budget compared to those in the Pac-10, along with the number of sports each school offers (statistics through fiscal year ending June 30, 2009):*

### School (Sports); Budget

Southern California (21); \$80,151,282  
Stanford (35); 74,695,254  
California (27); 73,354,967  
UCLA (24); 66,177,866  
Washington (24); 60,575,780  
Oregon (19); 60,211,404  
Arizona State (21); 53,297,963  
Arizona (20); 51,627,538  
Oregon State (19); 50,211,404  
Colorado (16), 49,859,693  
Washington State (18); 35,867,856

*Source: U.S. Department of Education*

## Directors' Cup standings

*Ranking through first week of June by points*

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*earned through teams' achievements, comparing Colorado to Pac-10 schools.*

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7. UCLA
11. California
12. Southern California
28. Washington
30. Oregon
32. Arizona
33. Arizona State
73. Oregon State
76. Colorado
145. Washington State

## CU conference affiliations

*(For football participation)*

- Colorado Football Association (1893-1908)
- Colorado Faculty Athletic Conference (1909)
- Rocky Mountain Faculty Athletic Conference (1910-36)
- Mountain States Conference/Skyline (1937-47)
- Big Seven (1948-59)
- Big Eight (1960-95)
- Big 12 (1996-present)
- Pac-10 (2012-)

## Pac-10 Programs

*What CU will see in its new digs:*

## ARIZONA WILDCATS

**City:** Tucson. **Founded:** 1885. **Enrollment:**

38,800.

**NCAA championships:** 17, including eight in softball.

**Football:** 6-8-1 in bowl games, including a Pac-10 co-title in 1993 season.

**Home field:** Arizona Stadium (57,803).

**Fun fact:** Uprooted 14-13 by Drake in the 1949 Salad Bowl.

## ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

**City:** Tempe, Ariz. **Founded:** 1885. **Enrollment:** 51,612.

**Championships:** 22, including six in women's golf and five in baseball.

**Football:** Won the 1987 Rose Bowl 22-15 over Michigan.

**Home field:** Sun Devil Stadium (73,379).

**Fun fact:** Former Broncos QB Jake Plummer rose to prominence as a Sun Devil.

## CALIFORNIA BEARS

**City:** Berkeley, Calif. **Founded:** 1868.

**Enrollment:** 35,843.

**Championships:** 27, including 13 in men's water polo.

**Football:** Named No. 1 in at least one poll five times between 1920 and 1937.

**Home field:** Memorial Stadium (72,516).

**Fun fact:** Scored the winning TD on a kick return against Stanford in 1982 with the Stanford band on the field.

## OREGON DUCKS

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**City:** Eugene, Ore. **Founded:** 1876. **Enrollment:** 22,386.

**Championships:** 16, all but one in track and cross country.

**Football:** The Ducks finished No. 2 in the final polls in 2001, behind Miami.

**Home field:** Autzen Stadium (54,000).

**Fun fact:** Oregon's football team wore a different uniform in each of its 13 games in 2009.

## OREGON STATE BEAVERS

**City:** Corvallis, Ore. **Founded:** 1868. **Enrollment:** 21,969.

**Championships:** Three, including 2006 and 2007 College World Series.

**Football:** The Beavers are 10-5 in bowl games, including a 41-9 thrashing of Notre Dame in the 2001 Fiesta Bowl.

**Home field:** Reser Stadium (45,674).

**Fun fact:** Exercise machines at the school rec center are connected to the electrical grid, powering the campus.

## STANFORD CARDINAL

**City:** Stanford, Calif. **Founded:** 1891. **Enrollment:** 18,498.

**Championships:** 99, including 35 involving men's and women's tennis.

**Football:** Claimed share of the first national title in 1926 behind coach Glenn "Pop" Warner.

**Home field:** Stanford Stadium (50,000).

**Fun fact:** Three grads in the Pro Football Hall of Fame: James Lofton, Ernie Nevers and John Elway.

## UCLA BRUINS

**City:** Los Angeles. **Founded:** 1919. **Enrollment:** 37,500.

**Championships:** 106, the most in the NCAA, led by 19 in men's volleyball.

**Football:** 14-13-1 in bowl games.

**Home field:** Rose Bowl (92,542).

**Fun fact:** Bruins have just one Heisman Trophy winner (Gary Beban, 1967).

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TROJANS

**City:** Los Angeles. **Founded:** 1880. **Enrollment:** 35,000.

**Championships:** 91, including 26 in men's track and field.

**Football:** 11 national titles.

**Home field:** L.A. Memorial Coliseum (92,500).

**Fun fact:** Tied with Alabama for most bowl victories with 31.

## WASHINGTON HUSKIES

**City:** Seattle. **Founded:** 1861. **Enrollment:** 42,933.

**Championships:** Six, including three in women's rowing between 1997-2001.

**Football:** Voted No. 1 in some final polls in 1960 and 1991, but UW has no official national title.

**Home field:** Husky Stadium (72,500).

**Fun fact:** ESPN recorded crowd-noise levels reaching 130 decibels during a 1992 football game with Nebraska.

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**WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS**

**City:** Pullman, Wash. **Founded:** 1892.

**Enrollment:** 18,234.

**Championships:** Two, one in boxing, one in men's track and field.

**Football:** 6-4 in bowl games, including 14-0 over Brown in the 1916 Rose Bowl.

**Home field:** Martin Stadium (35,117).

**Fun fact:** Football alumni include Jack Elway and former Broncos safety Hamza Abdullah.

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college football

## Pac-10 football coaches feel Buffs a "great fit"

By Adrian Dater  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 06/11/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT



UCLA football coach Rich Neuheisel, who got his head coaching start at Colorado (1995-98), is thrilled that the Buffaloes will be joining the Pac-10.  
(Jeff Lewis, The Associated Press )

Pac-10 football coaches were somewhat stunned Thursday when they heard the news Colorado was officially joining the conference.

"Two weeks ago, I would have said this is all crazy, this isn't going to happen," Oregon State football coach Mike Riley said. "And then a couple days ago, I said, 'There's too much smoke, there's got to be a fire somewhere.' Lo and behold, here we are with a new team. But, boy, this all happened very fast."

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Once the shock wore off, coaches quickly warmed to the idea of having a new partner, including former Buffs football coach Rick Neuheisel, who has coached UCLA the past two years.

"I'm thrilled. I have a fond place in my heart for Colorado," Neuheisel said. "It was the place that gave

me a chance to be a head coach for the first time. I can't say enough good things about the university."



LOS ANGELES - OCTOBER 24: Head coach Mike Riley of the Oregon State Beavers signals in the game with the USC Trojans on October 24, 2009 at the Los Angeles Coliseum in Los Angeles, California. USC won 42-36. (Getty Images North America | Stephen Dunn)

Oregon football coach Chip Kelly, whose brother lives in Dillon and whose niece attends CU, said the Buffs make for a "natural rival" to his and other West Coast schools.

"I think it's a great fit," Kelly said. "It's just a logical choice. We've got a tremendous amount

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of respect for their program. Our offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach (Mark Helfrich) was the coordinator a year ago at Colorado, so I know he keeps in touch with (CU coach Dan Hawkins), and I know Hawk real well."

Neuheisel, who coached the Buffs from 1995-98, knows his job will get tougher, especially if other Big 12 schools such as Texas join the Pac-10. The race for the Rose Bowl will have more competitors, as will the race for recruits in the Los Angeles area. But Neuheisel likes the idea of a possible championship game between division winners, which the Pac-10 would be expected to add once it reaches 12 teams.

"We currently play nine conference games. I can't imagine it being any more difficult than that," Neuheisel said. "And there is no question that the world already comes to Los Angeles to recruit. So that won't be a factor."

While Riley called himself an "old-school guy" who loved the fact the Pac-10 was one of the few conferences with a round-robin schedule, he called the addition of CU and possibly other schools an exciting time.

"For fans and players and teams, it will open up a whole bunch of new rivalries," Riley said. "The opportunity for Colorado to come into Corvallis and us to go to Boulder — I like that stuff. Not playing every team is something that's going to change, and we'll have to get past that, but I'm looking forward to seeing how it all plays out — and we're obviously not done yet."

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## CU vs. Pac-10

*How will Colorado fit into the Pac-10? Denver Post CU beat writer Tom Kensler looks at how CU's sports stack up.*

## FOOTBALL

3-9, 2-6 Big 12 in 2009 (fifth in North Division)

**Competing:** Conference comparisons are always difficult, but one of the best college football preview magazines (Phil Steele's) includes five current Pac-10 teams in its preseason top 38 — U SC (8), Oregon (10), Arizona (25), Stanford (34) and Oregon State (38) — but only two current Big 12 teams (No. 1 Oklahoma and 11 Texas). CU, coming off a disastrous season, is not in Steele's top 50. If CU played in the Pac-10 this season, it would be a surprise if the Buffs could rise above mediocrity.

**Fitting in:** Despite its recent stretch of losing seasons, CU has competed well for a long time. According to CU stats guru David Plati, the Buffs have posted the nation's 26th-best record since the start of the 1989 season (.615). Among current Pac-10 teams, that's topped only by USC (.696) and Oregon (.646) during that stretch. Colorado and the Pac-10 are no strangers. During the last 20 years, CU has played 20 games against current Pac-10 members, going

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10-10.

What will it take? To win in the Pac-10, you need an arsenal of explosive playmakers. Colorado's current roster will need an infusion of speed and athleticism to compete at a high level. But joining the Pac-10 should benefit CU's recruiting.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

15-16, 6-10 Big 12 in 2009-10 (eighth)

Competing: CU showed significant improvement this past season. After three consecutive years finishing at the bottom of the Big 12, the Buffs were eighth and nearly upset Kansas. CU's final regular-season RPI of 120 would have ranked it sixth among Pac-10 teams. Pac-10 basketball slumped last season but is usually ranked on a par with the Big 12.

Fitting in: During his three years as CU coach, Jeff Bzdelik had some recruiting success in California, including Cory Higgins and Shannon Sharpe (injury redshirt for 2009-10). It remains to be seen if new coach Tad Boyle will make the West Coast a recruiting priority. The guess here is he will.

What will it take? The Pac-10 has long been regarded as a "finesse" conference. That doesn't hurt Colorado, considering that the Buffs have had difficulty finding burly frontcourt players. Like CU, most Pac-10 programs prefer to recruit high school players rather than the junior colleges.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

13-17, 3-13 in Big 12 (11th)

Competing: The Big 12 led the nation in conference RPI last season. In recent years, only Stanford would measure up in talent and athleticism to the likes of Big 12 powers Oklahoma, Baylor and Texas.

Fitting in: Traditionally, CU has not depended on recruits from the West Coast, although the top player on the current roster is senior-to-be forward Brittany Spears from Pasadena, Calif., and departed center Courtney Dunn (Berkeley, Calif.) also was a starter. Two of CU's four incoming freshmen are Californians.

What will it take? New coach Linda Lappe, a former CU player under Ceal Barry, has a few pieces (Spears and sophomores Chucky Jeffery and Meagan Malcolm-Peck), but rebuilding could require some patience. Despite its population, California is considered by national observers to be under-recruited for women's basketball. Being a member of the Pac-10 should help Buffs recruiters.

## OLYMPIC SPORTS

Competing: In recent times, the most successful of CU's Olympic sports teams have included skiing, men's and women's cross country, women's soccer and men's golf. So what would happen in the Pac-10? Well, skiing is not

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sponsored by the Pac-10 (or the Big 12, for that matter) and the competition would be ramped up for cross country and women's soccer. Men's golf? The Big 12 is good, but the Pac-10 is the best.

Fitting in: Colorado does not sponsor several popular Pac-10 sports, including baseball, softball and men's tennis. It remains to be seen whether CU will try to add sports. Financially, it's been a challenge for CU athletic director Mike Bohn to maintain status quo while making some facility improvements for the 16 sports the Buffs do have. In recent years, little consideration has been given to the possibility of adding any sports.

What will it take? The challenges of competing in the Pac-10 appear even steeper for Colorado's Olympic sports. There's a reason Stanford wins the Directors' Cup every year for having the most successful overall athletic program, and it's not because of football. The good news is, CU has recruited heavily on the West Coast for its Olympic sports.

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cu football

## Academics played big role in Buffs' decision

By John Henderson  
The Denver Post

Posted: 06/11/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT



Colorado president Bruce Benson downplayed increased travel distances in the Pac-10, figuring added TV revenue will make up for the additional expenses the school will incur. (Reza A. Marvashti, Denver Post file photo )

While Colorado fans can now imagine their Buffaloes trading hits in Husky Stadium and the Rose Bowl, school president Bruce Benson can

imagine his faculty trading ideas in ivory towers around the Pac-10.

Benson said academics as much as athletics drove Colorado's acceptance of the Pac-10 Conference's invitation Thursday.

"You're judged by who your competitors are," he said. "Look at the Ivy League. Seven of eight are in the AAU (American Association of Universities). You're judged by your peers. I like to be judged against UCLA and Stanford and Berkeley and USC and Washington."

The Pac-10 has always appealed to Colorado because of its academics. Colorado will be the eighth Pac-10 school in the AAU. Six other Big

[Blog: All Things Buffs](#)



The Post's Tom Kensler posts analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics.

12 schools made the list.

Benson also admires the Pac-10 schools' worldwide appeal. He said recent legislation will

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allow Colorado to increase its international student body from 4 percent to 12 percent, helping it fit in even more with the Pac-10.

"It's amazing," he said. "Stanford is 25 percent international. Berkeley is 17 percent. We're in an international environment, and these guys are out ahead of everybody. We've got to rub elbows with people from other countries.

"Hold your arms apart. The world used to be this big. Now with communications, the world is the size of a baseball."

Benson said the increased travel distance for competition is not much of a negative. If the Pac-10 attracts five Big 12 South schools, Colorado will likely be in the same division with Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Arizona and Arizona State.

A possible football schedule would be seven league games inside the division and two in the other division.

"How much farther is this and that?" Benson said. "In this day and age with airplanes, it's another 15 to 20 minutes."

The added TV revenue will more than pay the extra travel. The Pac-10 will soon begin negotiating with Fox, among other networks, on a new deal starting in 2012.


"Look what the Big Ten has done with its own channel," Benson said. "The SEC did a big deal,

the ACC. These guys have done big deals. People throw out we should be in the Mountain West. The Mountain West gets half the revenue we'll be getting."

Colorado enters the Pac-10 without baseball, softball or men's tennis. It also will be the only school in the conference with a ski program. Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott told Benson he will not be required to add sports as the 16 programs are two over the NCAA minimum, but CU could use the extra TV revenue to add a sport.

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cu football

## Bufs get new digs in Pac-10 Conference

**By Tom Kensler**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 06/11/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

BOULDER — When Colorado running backs coach Darian Hagan first heard Thursday morning that CU had accepted an invitation to join the Pac-10 Conference, the former Bufs All-American quarterback shifted into his competitive mode.

"I can't wait to get those Pac-10 teams to come up here (to altitude) so we can kick their butts," Hagan said with a grin. "And we're going to use that in recruiting. I'm loving it."

A Los Angeles-area native who grew up in the inner-city, Hagan was recruited by Pac-10 schools but picked Colorado because he "wanted to get away." CU has always recruited well along the West Coast, but becoming part of that area's premier league should open more doors for a struggling program that needs any

lift it can get.

[Blog: All Things Bufs](#)



The Post's Tom Kensler posts analysis, notes and minutiae on this blog devoted to CU athletics.

For Hagan, the official 2012 start of an anticipated "Pac-16" couldn't come soon enough.

It's possible five other Big 12 schools — Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech — will follow Colorado to an expanded Pac-10. Being the closest of the newcomers to the West Coast can give Colorado a recruiting advantage, Hagan said.

"We'll be able to plant a CU flag there in California and go recruit the big boys," he said. "This is an opportunity for CU to be on a bigger stage."

Colorado football coach Dan Hawkins and athletic director Mike Bohn declined interview requests Thursday, choosing to wait until today's scheduled 11 a.m. news conference in Boulder to discuss the big move. Others on the CU campus expressed elation about the move. That included those on the academics side.

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Along with its athletic prowess, the Pac-10 ranks among the nation's top academic conferences with a membership that includes Stanford, California, UCLA and the University of Southern California. One of the CU programs that could be helped most is the school's aerospace engineering sciences department. Other Pac-10 schools are strong in that field of study, and much of the aerospace industry calls the West Coast home.

Outside of the state of Colorado, the largest share of CU alumni resides in California.

"I'm really excited with CU going to the Pac-10," said Ben Kemper, a first-year graduate student in aerospace sciences. "Our program and others on campus could bring in more money and support, maybe get more students interested in coming here. It's amazing how football can also drive the business of education."

Colorado alumnus Brad Gay, a Highlands Ranch resident and football season-ticket holder who has traveled to at least one CU road game a year for two decades, said he was proud that his school became proactive and found a future home amid all the speculation about the realignment of conferences.

"This is the best news that we've had come out of the athletic department in a long time," Gay said. "I have not always been impressed with our school administration, but I was very impressed that CU became the first of the Big 12 schools to

join the Pac-10. We became their 11th member and didn't wait on Texas. I'm proud of that."

With Nebraska headed to the Big Ten Conference, one question sure to come up in Boulder is which team will become Colorado's chief conference rival? Texas Tech? Arizona State? Anyone?

"You really need a rival," CU defensive backs coach Ashley Ambrose said. "I know Colorado State is our rival, but we'll have to develop a rivalry with someone in the new league. I don't know who that would be. But it will probably happen."

Senior wide receiver Scotty McKnight, who hails from Orange County, Calif., said it will be exciting for the program moving forward to play against Pac-10 competition, but he also is sad leaving the Big 12.

"If we were to have stayed there (in the Big 12), I would have been happy," McKnight said. "But moving to the Pac-10 just means change and good things to come."

With one year of eligibility remaining, McKnight won't get to play in a Pac-16, but an incoming freshman women's basketball player, Shae Kelley, will get that chance.

"I expected to be playing in the Big 12, and it may be a hard transition after playing two years in one league and then all of a sudden everything changes," said Kelley, a Denver East

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graduate named "Ms. Colorado Basketball" this spring by The Denver Post.

If Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State join the Pac-10, they will bring some familiarity — and tough competition.

"We welcome that," said Ja-shon Sykes, a former CU linebacker from L.A. who now serves as the program's coordinator of football relations.

"That's why you play the game."

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JUNE 10, 2010, 3:26 PM

## From a CU alum and West Coast native: A great move for the Buffaloes

By **TERRY FREI** |  Comments Disabled

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For many years, and long before it seemed even a longshot possibility, I've both mused and written that my alma mater, the University of Colorado, would be a much better fit as a member of the Pacific 10 (or Pacific Whatever) than as a member of the Big 12 (or Big Whatever).

I felt, as many did, that CU had much more in common with most of the Pac 10's markets and schools than with those in the Big 8 and then the Big 12. And CU has a much stronger alumni base on the West Coast than it does in the Midwest and perhaps even Texas and Oklahoma.

My axes: Before moving to Denver as a high school junior, I was raised in Eugene, where my father was on the University of Oregon football staff first as an assistant under Len Casanova, then as head coach. After graduating from CU and then my first stint at the *Denver Post*, I spent eight years at the Portland *Oregonian* and did many stories on the Pacific 10 when I was at the *Sporting News*. I've been to every Pacific 10 campus, as well as most in the Big 12.

So I at least have some background and knowledge to draw from when comparing CU's relative fit in the two leagues.

If this move were made five years ago, I would have been all for it. I also would have admitted there was considerable emotionalism involved in my position, and it was as much about a "feel" than about cold logic.

But now the switch to the Pacific 12 or 16 is a great move for some reasons that render moot all the arguing over the relative merits of the Big 12 and Pac 10.

Even when I wrote in February that CU should explore the move to the Pac 10, some of the responses arguing against my stand raised perfectly valid points and questions. *Could we be sure the revenue would be increased? Could we be sure the exit fees CU would have to pay the Big 12 wouldn't additionally hamper the athletic department? Wouldn't we miss Nebraska as a league rival, as well as some of the other league schools? Does everyone understand that in a two-division league, it's not as if USC is going to be coming to Boulder every other year?*

The picture has changed considerably in the last few months, too.

Unless all Big 12 schools took a blood oath that they were going to stick together and that nobody had to be nervous about bailouts as other conferences came courting, the status quo was not an option.

With Nebraska gone, with Texas and Texas A&M restless and on the way out to the Pac (Whatever) or Southeastern Conference, pending all the machinations and the Texas backroom political maneuvering, the Big 12 was headed for either demolition or, at best, downgrading.

By making the first move, also, it's clear it removes the possibility of Texas politicians forcing the Pac 10 to take Baylor over CU if Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech also want to make the switch to the Left Coast League, most likely along with Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. (In that sense, there probably are some folks at the University of Texas who were, um, all for Colorado making that first move so they could throw up their hands and say of Baylor: Gee, it's too bad, but the Pac 10 can't take *everyone*!)

With all due respect to the Mountain West, and a nod to the history that shows Colorado played in a similar Mountain States League before joining the Big Seven in 1948, CU in the MWC would have a last act of desperation and unpalatable to most of the school's boosters and alumni.

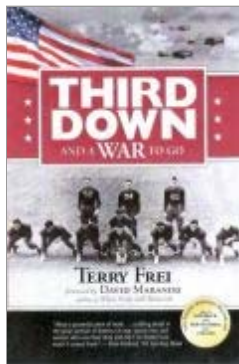
By being aggressive, CU did the right thing. There are many hurdles to clear in the transition, including waiting for the league's membership to be finalized, paying the exit fees and penalties that go with leaving the Big 12, if there is a Big 12 left to pay off, and coming up with a new rival.

But the alternatives were ugly.

And a final note: After many years without baseball, Oregon — in part because Oregon State won the College World Series in 2006 and '07 and made some Ducks' boosters jealous — resumed its program last year. The Ducks were in the NCAA Field this year. All Pac 10 schools have baseball programs. I hope there's something in the fine print or handshakes that will lead to CU reinstating its baseball program, too.

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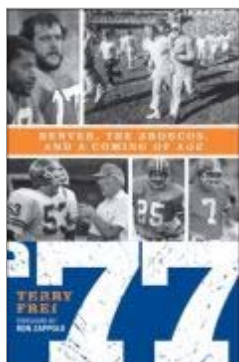


[1]

Visit Terry Frei's web site, [www.terryfrei.com](http://www.terryfrei.com) <sup>[2]</sup>, for information about his books and screenplays:

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- *Third Down and a War to Go* <sup>[4]</sup> (foreword by Pulitzer-Prize winner David Maraniss). "...will put you in the huddle, in the front lines, and in a state of profound gratitude." — Neal Rubin, *Detroit News*.
- *The Witch's Season* <sup>[5]</sup>, the novel now available. "Frei combines his passion for college football, politics and the turbulence of the 1960s into a classic. The recipe works, as *The Witch's Season* is a compelling page turner." — Doug Ottewill, *Mile*

*High Sports Magazine*.



[6]

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Thursday, June 10, 2010

## CU move a good, natural fit

By David Ubben  
ESPN.com

Ever since talks began, Colorado playing in the Pac-10 made a lot of sense. It's a physical outlier in the Big 12, the conference's only school in the Mountain West. Only two other schools in the Big 12 fit inside the top 35 of the [U.S. News & World Report best public national universities](#). The list's top two schools are in the Pac-10. Anyone who's stepped foot in Boulder can tell right away it has plenty more in common with Berkeley or Palo Alto than it does with Ames or Manhattan.

Dan Hawkins' current roster has 23 California natives. Texas? Just three.

The school probably would have made the move even without an impending jump from five Big 12 South teams that could establish the Pac-10 as the first 16-team conference in college football. The added television revenue from that move only sweetens the deal.

Colorado was in the unique position of not depending on any other school's actions to help decide its future, something only Nebraska -- if that -- can say.

On Thursday, Colorado took advantage of that.

Baylor made a late push to try to earn a bid to the Pac-10, but unless the talks between Texas A&M and the SEC heat up into an eventual marriage, the Bears may fall out of automatic qualifier status.

Colorado isn't without its jagged edges in a move to the Pac-10. It doesn't play baseball, and California is one of the few states that embraces the college game. The same with softball, where UCLA just won the national championship over *another* Pac-10 team, Arizona.

In football, Colorado is still years away from competing for a conference championship -- if ever -- in a soon-to-be souped-up Pac-10. And the idea that Colorado "delivers" the Denver market is generous. Denver is the Broncos' town. But as any Buffaloes fan will be quick to note, the school's 1990 national title proves that an ascension to the elite is a possibility. A more receptive California recruiting trail might push that along.

But the negatives were never going to touch the positives that far outweigh a shift in conference alignment. Especially now that a much bigger check -- perhaps as high or higher than \$20 million by some estimates -- awaits if the Big 12 South arrives.

And if you haven't figured out money is all that matters in this whole process, well, then I just can't help you at this point.

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[ESPN.com: Pac-10](#)[\[Print without images\]](#)

Thursday, June 10, 2010

## Colorado a good fit for Pac-10

By Ted Miller  
ESPN.com

Since the Pac-10 first asked, "What about expansion?" upon hiring Larry Scott as commissioner, Colorado was on the table as a potential partner.

All the hubbub about Baylor boosters trying to muscle Colorado aside? It was never an issue with the Pac-10, which has been eyeballing Colorado for months.

The Buffaloes are a good fit, culturally and academically. Heck, even temperamentally.

For Scott, they will be an even better fit when they are joined by their five friends from the crumbling Big 12: Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech. That would set up a "super-conference" that could create a revenue-churning network paying out each team \$20 million -- or more -- annually.

But even if there's an 11th-hour change -- Texas A&M to the SEC! Notre Dame to the Big Ten! -- know that Scott has considered out all the variables. He's convinced that Colorado, alone, adds value to the Pac-10.

"We have been through a pretty exhaustive and deliberate process and it was clear to us that in any scenario we were going to consider for expansion that Colorado was a great fit," Scott said.

Denver a pro sports town? Scott scoffed at that reasoning, noting -- with more than a hint of sarcasm -- the same could be said about the rest of the Pac-10's major cities. In other words: Another reason Colorado is a great fit.

Of course, Colorado isn't a sports powerhouse. It ranked 69th in the directors cup standings last year. It doesn't play baseball or softball (though adding both sports has been discussed). Its football and basketball programs just got docked scholarships because of poor APR scores.

Moreover, the divorce with the Big 12 could get interesting. Colorado administrators are unsure what sort of penalty they will incur for bolting the Big 12, particularly when the Big 12's survival is in question. The Pac-10 might have to pick up part of the tab. And, as things are now, the Buffaloes won't join the Pac-10 until 2012, which means two seasons of Big 12 play that could be fairly uncomfortable.

"In talking to [Big 12 commissioner] Dan Beebe a couple of presidents and chancellors, we certainly have a longstanding relationship and I think we can work well together for the next two years until we move officially to the Pac-10," said Colorado president Bruce Benson, striking an upbeat note.

It comes down to this: Scott's decision to invite Colorado before all others wasn't about micro-analyzing the present and trying to figure out why something wouldn't work.

It was about imagining how things could work in the future.

And after penciling it all out, both Colorado and Scott came to the same conclusion: A marriage between the Buffaloes and the Pac-10 will be good for both partners.

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latimes.com/sports/la-sp-pac-10-20100611,0,1014827.story

**latimes.com**

## Colorado agrees to join Pacific 10 Conference

**Commissioner says the league could stay at 11 schools, although it isn't likely. The plan for expansion to 16 schools is on track, sources say.**

By Chris Dufresne

8:02 PM PDT, June 10, 2010

The Pacific 10 Conference became the Pac-11 on Thursday when the University of Colorado accepted an invitation to join the league.

Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott said on a teleconference the league could stay at 11 schools — "That is a possibility" — although it isn't likely.

The plan for expansion to 16 schools is on track, according to sources familiar with the negotiations who did not want to be identified until more issues are settled.

The next important move comes Friday. If Nebraska leaves the Big 12 to join the Big Ten, the Pac-10 will move to issue invitations to five Big 12 schools: Texas, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas Tech.

There are contingency plans in place in case things don't work out as planned. If Nebraska decides to stay and the Big 12 holds together, the Pac-10 would probably invite Utah to become its 12th member.

There were also multiple reports Thursday that Texas A&M might split from Texas in the Pac-10 package and entertain an offer from the Southeastern Conference. If that happened, and the Big 12 still is dissolved, the Pac-10 would strongly consider offering Kansas a chance to become its 12th member.

The plan, however, is to form a 16-school conference and split into two, eight-team divisions. The winners of those divisions would play in a conference title game. The title game would rotate between divisions, with Jerry Jones' new stadium in Texas probably becoming a regular stop.

Adding Colorado to the Pac-10 on Thursday was the first piece of the puzzle and it's a courtship that has been going on for years. The Pac-10 made a move in the 1990s to add Colorado and Texas.

"We have been looking at Colorado for quite some time," Scott said on the conference call. "We have been through a pretty exhaustive and deliberate process and it was clear to us that in any scenario we were going to consider for expansion, Colorado was a great fit."

The plan is for all Colorado sports teams to join the conference in 2012, preferably as a member of the new 16-school conference.

Scott said no other invitations have been extended, but that he was "authorized to pursue several different scenarios."

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Longmont, Colorado  
Friday, June 18, 2010

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## 'Looking west': CU makes move official

By Brian Howell  
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BOULDER — As the sun shone down on the Flatirons, the University of Colorado entered a new era Friday.

"Today, we're looking west, toward the Pac-10 Conference, toward the great tradition and legacy of achievement the Pac-10 represents," CU chancellor Philip DiStefano said. "We are eager to take our rightful place and begin our own legacy in our new home."

Colorado officially joined the Pac-10 Conference on Friday and welcomed officials from the conference and the Rose Bowl to town on a picturesque day in Boulder.

CU regents voted unanimously to approve the move to the Pac-10.

The Pac-10 is known as the Conference of Champions, and conference commissioner Larry Scott was pleased to include Colorado in the mix.

"Champions really relates to three things: world-class research, prestigious academic reputation and, of course, the athletic success of the Pac-10 conference," Scott said. "The University of Colorado is a perfect fit against all of these criteria."

Visits from Pac-10 officials will become regular in the near future. The plan is for Colorado to begin Pac-10 play in the fall of 2012. Until then, the Buffs are planning to continue playing in the Big 12.

Nebraska officially left the Big 12 on Friday to join the Big Ten, and the Cornhuskers plan to begin Big Ten play in 2011. That move, coupled with other rumored moves by Big 12 teams, could change CU's plans to wait two years to begin Pac-10 play.

Regardless of when the Buffs start playing their Pac-10 foes, the shift from the Big 12 was well received by many involved with the CU program.

"I'm a little bit torn, but at the same time, with the way the economy is and the way college sports is driven toward the dollar, I think it was a smart move," said CU running backs coach Darian Hagan, who quarterbacked the Buffs to three straight Big 8 titles from 1989 to 1991. The Big 8 expanded to the Big 12 in 1996. "It was an opportunity for us to be the leader. I think our administration did a good job of evaluating everything and jumped at the right time."

New CU men's basketball coach Tad Boyle grew up in Colorado and played for Big 12 rival Kansas. He said it's bittersweet to see the Buffs leave the Big 12, but he added, "It's a great move for us academically, and it's a great move for us athletically."

"College athletics is changing. I mention the Big 8 to kids, and they don't even know what I'm talking about. It's a



University of Colorado athletic director Mike Bohn speaks Friday during a press conference in Boulder announcing that the University of Colorado has joined the Pac-10 Conference. **Richard M. Hackett/Times-Call**



little bittersweet for me, but as far as the people we're dealing with on a day-to-day basis, it's all about what's best for our school."

CU officials made it clear they view this as a great move for the school, in all areas.

For starters, the school stands to receive a boost in television revenue.

"Eventually, we're hopeful to enhance our revenue, because we need it to be competitive," CU athletic director Mike Bohn said.

The opportunity to recruit more on the West Coast and better academic associations were among the other primary reasons for the move.

Bohn said the school already has received positive feedback from fans, including many who have called to renew future tickets.

"This is a great opportunity for us," he said. "We're doing everything we can to make the most of this opportunity. It's a galvanizing opportunity. It's an opportunity for us to redefine our commitment to athletics."

The idea of leaving the Big 12 has been in the works for a while.

Bohn said rumors and discussions of conference realignment around the nation began in the East, as the Big Ten pondered expanding last year.

"I began to think, 'This is kind of interesting. We better start monitoring this a great deal and looking for opportunities,'" he said. "I really had a gut feeling something was going to happen this summer all along."

Bohn said that a year ago, he could not have envisioned leaving the Big 12.

"But again, I really felt fortunate to have some great people advising me that winds of change were in play," he said.

Those became gale-force winds in recent weeks. During the Big 12 meetings a week ago in Kansas City, Mo., league officials discussed their future. There was hope of sticking together, but as the meetings broke, that seemed less likely.

Once other Big 12 schools — such as Texas, Missouri and Nebraska — began looking around at options, that put CU on edge.

"It's very fair (to say that)," Bohn said. "The landscape appears, over this last week, to change almost hour by hour."

CU was the first school to officially leave the Big 12, making its announcement Thursday, but "we didn't do it to be first," Bohn said. "We did it because it was right."

Nebraska made its move Friday. Whether other Big 12 schools will follow remains to be seen. But Scott, who still might add schools to his conference, applauded CU's quick move.

He thanked CU leaders for "your tireless work, your leadership, your vision and your courage to be willing to be proactive in taking the first major next step."

Scott added, "I think history will recognize and reward the good first step we've made together."

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Longmont, Colorado  
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## CU might be first of many teams to leave Big 12

By Brian Howell  
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Now what?

On Thursday, the University of Colorado made it official that it will leave the Big 12 Conference for supposedly greener pastures in the Pac-10.

Moving west may result in a multimillion-dollar penalty for CU, but it won't know until the dust settles on all the expansion talk.

"We don't know what the penalty would be, or if there would be a penalty at this point," CU chancellor Philip DiStefano said. "If we did have a penalty, we will be working something out with the Pac-10 to help finance that penalty."

If there is a penalty, it would be distributed among the remaining schools. For now, however, the more pressing concern for the 11 remaining schools in the Big 12 is the long-term health of the conference.

Colorado president Bruce Benson said simply that he wishes the rest of the Big 12 members luck in the future. But what does the future hold for the other 11 schools? At this point, it's unclear.

CU became the 11th member of the Pac-10 on Thursday, but the conference could swell to as many as 16 teams in the near future.

There is speculation that the Pac-10 will send invitations to five other Big 12 schools: Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech. Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott said Thursday, however, that the Pac-10's expansion past 11 teams is not a foregone conclusion.

"No invitations have been issued," he said. "There's still several different scenarios that we may or may not pursue."

If nothing else, Thursday was a good start for the Pac-10, which had not expanded since 1978, when it added Arizona and Arizona State.

"This is the dawning of a new day for the Pac-10," Scott said. "We've been going through a very deliberate process, working extremely closely with our presidents and chancellors thinking about the future of the Pac-10. There's a lot of excitement and enthusiasm about our prospects going forward, including with the addition of new members."

Regardless of whether the Pac-10 expands more, the conference already has thrown itself to the front of the national stage this week.



Colorado's Bernard Jackson runs for a first down in front of Arizona State's Dexter Davis during a game at Folsom Field on Sept. 16, 2006. As a new member of the Pac-10, CU will be seeing much more of Arizona State in seasons to come.

Lewis Geyer/Times-Call file

### pac-10 preview

On Thursday, the University of Colorado announced that it will join the Pac-10 Conference, beginning in 2012. Here's a look at the Buffaloes' new conference:

**CURRENT MEMBERS:** Arizona, Arizona State, California, Colorado, Oregon, Oregon State, Southern Cal, Stanford, UCLA, Washington, Washington State

**HISTORY:** The beginnings of the Pac-10 go back to 1915. However, after a series of changes, the Pacific 8 Conference was formed in 1968. In 1978, Arizona and Arizona State were added and the league was renamed the Pacific 10 Conference.

**SPORTS:** The conference sponsors 11 men's sports and 11 women's sports.

**MORE SPORTS FOR CU?** As of today, CU is the only Pac-10 school that does not have a baseball team. The Buffs also are one of three schools without a softball team (joining Southern Cal and

"I think the Pac-10's been talked about more in the last five days then we probably have been across the country in years," Arizona athletic director Greg Byrne said. "That's a good thing for our brand; it's a good thing for our identity as a league."

The Big 12 is in the headlines, too, but for the wrong reason. For the past 14 years, the conference has had a reputation as a powerhouse. It has produced national champions in a plethora of sports, including three in football.

That reputation is being threatened now, however.

Nebraska is reportedly set to announce it will leave the Big 12. The Cornhuskers could announce as early as today that they will join the Big Ten. Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech soon could follow by joining the Pac-10.

All that would leave Baylor, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri scrambling to add more teams to the Big 12, or go elsewhere.

"It's a little bit hard to see (the Big 12 coming apart)," CU senior center Keenan Stevens said, "but there's newer and better things in the future."

At least for CU.

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Washington State). Pac-10 commissioner Larry Scott said, "There is no requirement that (Colorado) add any sports."

**WHY COLORADO?** After 32 years of stability, the Pac-10 added a new school this week. Colorado, Scott said, was an easy choice. "We couldn't think of a school that's a better fit academically, as well as athletically and on a lot of different levels, to be joining the conference," he said.

Adding CU expands the Pac-10 profile, too. "As we know, television has a tremendous impact on what takes place with your contracts right now," Arizona athletic director Greg Byrne said. "That's an important revenue source for every league out there. Moving forward as we're exploring what opportunities are ahead for the Pac-10, to have the Colorado television market as part of that will obviously be great exposure for our league."

#### **HOW THE BUFFS HAVE STACKED**

**UP:** CU has played each of the Pac-10 schools at least twice in football. The Buffs are 38-34-1 all-time against the conference, including 12-1 against Arizona.

In men's basketball, CU is 38-42 against the Pac-10, including 8-5 against Arizona and 5-2 against Oregon State.

The women's basketball team is 35-24 against the Pac-10, including 9-0 against Arizona State.

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Longmont, Colorado  
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## Proactive CU takes control of its future

*By Brian Howell*  
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Rumors about the destruction of the Big 12 Conference have been flying around for weeks.

Nebraska has flirted with the Big Ten and could join that conference as early as today. Missouri has let it be known it would like to join the Big Ten (although the Big Ten, as of yet, hasn't indicated it wants the Tigers).

Texas, it was said, held the key to the whole conference. If the Longhorns, who have been driving the Big 12 bus since the conference's inception in 1996, wanted to leave, the whole conference was in trouble. If the Longhorns wanted to stay, the conference might be all right.

Rumors of Colorado going to the Pac-10 have been around for a while, too. But then Baylor jumped in and tried to push the Buffs out of the way so it could be involved in the talks of Pac-10 expansion.

Until Thursday, when CU officially announced it was leaving for the Pac-10, everything was rumor or speculation. But one thing was clear: The Big 12 was in trouble, and movement was inevitable.

Give CU credit: It didn't get caught napping. The Buffs, who seemed content to sit back and react to what others planned to do, became proactive.

CU was given an opportunity and jumped on it. The Big 12 was destined for a fall whether CU jumped ship or not. So the Buffs became the first team in the conference to secure its future.

"We are proud to accept this invitation from the Pac-10," CU chancellor Philip DiStefano said.

Beginning in 2012, CU has to give up its long-standing rivalries with Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Kansas State. In return, the Buffs get much more.

Colorado has sought football talent in California for years, and increasing its profile in the Golden State ought to help the Buffs in recruiting.

Of course, money played a big role in CU's decision, too. According to the Omaha World-Herald, CU earned \$8 million in revenue from the Big 12 in 2007. That number easily could double for the Buffs as they enter the Pac-10.

Despite the tradition of the Big 12 and the rivalries CU has had for decades, the Buffs made the decision that the Pac-10 was better.

"We look at it as a real class conference," CU president Bruce Benson said. "You're judged by who you associate with, and we want to be associated with the Pac-10."

Maybe there could have been a way to save the Big 12. Maybe Nebraska, Missouri, Texas and the other members of the conference could have found a way to stick together.

Then again, maybe not.

CU didn't wait to find out, and for that, it ought to be applauded. The Buffs went out on their terms and, ultimately, made the best decision for the University of Colorado.

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Published Jun 10, 2010  
Published Thursday June 10, 2010

## Official: Buffaloes are still open to playing Nebraska

By [Lee Barfknecht](#)

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER



REBECCA S. GRATZ/THE WORLD-HERALD

Ralphie, Colorado's buffalo mascot, is a familiar part of the school's football rivalry with Nebraska. Over 25 years, the games grew to have a heated atmosphere.

With Colorado now headed to the Pacific 10 Conference, is there any chance the Buffaloes would still want to play Nebraska in football?

"We plan on playing them in future Rose Bowls, so I don't know if we would schedule them or not," CU Associate Athletic Director Dave Plati said Thursday from Boulder, Colo.

All humor aside, Plati said he is interested in future CU-NU games depending on how the current conference realignment plans evolve.

"If it would work out, we'd be very open to playing Nebraska in a series," said Plati, who is heavily involved in scheduling.

"Not on a yearly basis. But as an alum of this school and a longtime employee, I'd like to see it continue off and on."

About 25 years ago, then-Colorado coach Bill McCartney designated Nebraska as the Buffs' rival. The interest in that decision and the move of the game to Thanksgiving weekend eventually created a heated atmosphere.

Colorado's change of leagues Thursday caught some by surprise. But CU President Bruce Benson said the school had long considered a move to the Pac-10.

"We look at it as a real class conference," Benson said. "You're judged by who you associate with. We want to be associated with the Pac-10 because it's such great conference.

"That's saying nothing against the Big 12. Some of us have strong loyalties to the Big 12. But we know it's time for the change, and we know this is the exact perfect place for us to go."

Benson said phone calls received in the first four hours after the announcement were highly positive, including one from the governor.

Is anybody else from the Big 12 going to join Colorado, the Pac-10's first new member since 1978?

Pac-10 Commissioner Larry Scott, when asked about a report that Oklahoma State had accepted a bid, replied: "That would be news to me."

The Pac-10 has investigated several schools, Scott said, but contacted few. He declined to speculate on how many more teams might be invited or how soon.

Colorado, which will start competition in the Pac-10 in August 2012, is "a great fit," Scott said.

"Coming out of our board meeting last weekend, there are several scenarios that could pan out," Scott said. "But in every single one of those scenarios, Colorado made sense to us, so there was no reason to wait any longer."

**Other items:**

- Colorado sponsors the minimum number of sports (16) that the Big 12 requires. Scott said CU won't be told to add sports, but discussions have occurred about adding baseball and softball.
- CU officials said they are unclear what penalty they might pay to leave the Big 12. Talks will include having the Pac-10 finance some of the hit.
- Benson on his feelings for the "leftover" schools in the Big 12 such as Iowa State: "Conferences change pretty regularly. We don't like leaving people behind, but I also have a high regard for the schools in the Big 12. I just think this is a better fit for us."

**Contact the writer:**

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## As Pac-10 becomes Pac-11, question becomes what happens next

Published: Thursday, June 10, 2010, 6:11 PM Updated: Thursday, June 10, 2010, 9:06 PM



**R.J. Rico, The Oregonian**



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Associated Press

Something to get used to with Colorado joining the Pac-10: Handlers called "Ralphie runners" guide Ralphie V, the school's mascot, during football games.

The Pac-10 became the Pac-11 on Thursday. The question now is what conference commissioner Larry Scott might do next.

When the University of Colorado accepted an invitation to join the West Coast's premier league on Thursday morning, the first school made its move after months of speculation on what could develop into a dramatic overhaul of the college sports landscape. The next domino to fall could come today, when Nebraska -- another Big 12 Conference school -- is expected to join the Big Ten Conference when its board of regents meets.

Scott lauded Colorado's athletic and academic credentials in a teleconference Thursday afternoon with Colorado President Bruce D. Benson and Colorado-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano.

"We've been looking at Colorado for quite some time," Scott said. "It was clear to us that for any scenario,

Colorado is a great fit."

Scott, however, was vague about what paths the Pac-10 might pursue next.

Despite having told The Oregonian on May 26 that universities would join the conference "two-by-two," Scott said Thursday that he did not necessarily expect the Pac-10 to add any more teams. According to NCAA rules, a conference must have at least 12 teams before it can hold a conference championship football game, something Scott has previously expressed an interest in.

Denying a report that the merger of another Big 12 program, Oklahoma State, with the Pac-10 was a "done deal," Scott would not address specific expansion scenarios and said that he would wait and see how things would play out among the other conferences.

"There are no assurances (that the Pac-10 will continue to expand past 11 teams)," he said. "No invitations have been issued... We are evaluating different options and waiting to see what might develop nationally before we decide what we might do next."

Reports nationally, however, indicate otherwise.

A source told ESPN.com that it is "simply a matter of who signs next."

According to recent reports the most likely candidates to join the Pac-10 remain Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Scott said that an important consideration in terms of future expansion is the amount of travel that student-athletes would face.

"We are determined in whatever scenario we wind up with, through the use of divisions and creative scheduling, to make sure that any of these expansion scenarios -- including the most extreme that you've heard of -- do not result in significantly greater travel distances nor more missed class time," he said. "I'm confident that in any of the scenarios we're contemplating, that will not be the case."

The Colorado Buffaloes, in addition to the Denver media market, bring a competitive football program to the Pac-10.

After splitting its first -- and only -- national title with Georgia Tech in 1990, the Buffaloes have had mixed success the past two decades.

They finished the 2001 and 2002 regular seasons 10-2 and 9-4, respectively, but lost both of their bowl games in those seasons. The 38-16 loss to Oregon in the 2002 Fiesta Bowl pushed the Buffaloes down from a No. 3 spot in the polls to a No. 9 rank.

Since 2002, though, Colorado is 36-51 and has not been to a bowl game since the 2007 season.

Oregon interim athletic director Lorraine Davis and Oregon football coach Chip Kelly both said they reacted positively to the news of Colorado being in the Pac-10, citing both the university's reputation and the increased exposure that the conference would receive.

"It expands the footprint of the conference," Kelly said. "By adding Colorado into that mix, it makes the league more visible. I really look at it as a positive."

Speaking a day earlier, on ESPN's College Football Live, Oregon State coach Mike Riley expressed his fondness for the current conference setup but acknowledged that change appeared inevitable.

"Every game in our league throughout the season is a playoff game and I love that competition, but I certainly understand (expansion)," Riley said. "I guess I'd raise my hand in favor if this was going to impact all these schools like they say it might."

Still, like Scott, Davis was hesitant to speculate on how this recent news affects rumors of what could become a Pac-10 "superconference."

"Right now, we just have Colorado; that's where we're at the moment," Davis said.

Colorado steeplechase athletes Emma Coburn and Shalaya Kipp drew extra attention at the NCAA Track & Field Championships in Eugene thanks to the Buffaloes' logo on their warmup gear.

Since it was announced that Colorado would join the Pac-10, Coburn said about 20 people welcomed her and teammates to the conference.

The expansion of the Pac-10 is more about football than track, but from Coburn's perspective the move will certainly make life tougher for Colorado distance runners.

"At least for distance track the Pac-10 and the Big 12 are the top distance conferences," the sophomore said. "I think it's going to make winning conference on an individual basis a little harder," she said.

Colorado freshman Shalaya Kipp said the impact on track and field won't be as big as in other sports.

"I think either way we're going to all end up in nationals and we're going to race against everyone in the end so for track athletes it's not as big of a deal," Kipp said. "But ... I'm excited."

Scott said he expects Colorado to officially join the Pac-10 at the start of the 2012 season. The Pac-10's television contracts expire after the 2011-12 season, by which point Scott has said he wants to have



maximum leverage to sign a long-term media deal for the conference.

The Pac-10's last expansion came in 1978 when the conference added Arizona and Arizona State.

Colorado's move Thursday, coupled with Nebraska's expect exit today likely signals the demise of the Big 12, the highly successful conference that was formed in 1994 when the Big Eight invited in Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Baylor.

If the Big 12 is further raided as expected, that would leave Missouri, Baylor, Iowa State, Kansas and Kansas State out in the cold.

Any of these schools could be targets for the Mountain West Conference, which this week held off on inviting rising football power Boise State after speculation swirled about the possible unraveling of the Big 12.

That unraveling, it appears, is now unfolding in earnest.

-- Contributions from The Oregonian's Tyson Alger and Aaron Fentress, and the Associated Press

-- **R.J. Rico**

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